



NEWS RELEASE

Australian Divisions of General Practice Ltd.

20 June 2006

Online training benefits GPs

To mark Drug Action Week®, the Australian Divisions of General Practice (ADGP) has launched an innovative new online training package, *Your Mental Health and Alcohol: Managing the Mix*.

Australian Divisions of General Practice CEO Kate Carnell said links between drug and alcohol abuse and mental health problems are often inter-connected. The innovative new online training program will improve skills for GPs and other clinicians to better treat comorbid alcohol misuse and common mental health problems, such as depression and anxiety.

Ms Carnell said, "GPs are the front door to the primary health care system in Australia and *Your Mental Health and Alcohol: Managing the Mix* will assist them to better screen for, assess and treat affected patients.

"Importantly, people with co-existing conditions may need extra support from allied health professionals and other agencies. The training also includes activities aimed at building relationships between GPs and other clinicians."

ADGP Chair Jenny Thomson said the national training programs such as *Managing the Mix* are invaluable for GPs ongoing drug, alcohol and mental illness education.

"We have already trained over 350 GPs and over 230 allied health providers in a face-to-face version of this training, making a major difference to the number of GPs participating in the *Better Outcomes in Mental Health Care* program", Dr Thomson said.

ADGP thanks the Alcohol Education Rehabilitation Foundation and the Department of Veterans' Affairs for their funding and ongoing support of this exciting initiative.

ADGP is supplying the training free of charge to interested GPs and other health care providers.

The online version will allow user friendly access to all interested practitioners across the country. To register visit www.adgp.com.au and then follow the links to *Managing the Mix*.

Drug Action Week® is a registered trademark of the Alcohol and Other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA).

For more information please call Kate Carnell, ADGP Chief Executive Officer, on 0415 662 266.

WHAT IS ADGP?

- ADGP is the peak body representing 119 Divisions of General Practice and eight State-based organisations (SBOs) around Australia. The Divisions Network supports general practice and their practice teams and drives the implementation of innovative health strategies.
- ADGP, through the Divisions Network, works to integrate general practice with other sectors of the health system, both government and non-government, to deliver high quality care to the Australian community.
- ADGP is committed to promoting the health of all Australians by supporting the role of Divisions in the nation's primary health care system.



Telephone 02 6228 0800

Facsimile 02 6228 0899

Email adgpreception@adgp.com.au